liability of Union Carbide for Bhopal catastrophe.

Hundreds of victims are staging a dharna before the Supreme Court seeking justice, and over more than one hundred MP's have already written to the Prime Minister for necessary action. So, I would request the Government to take appropriate steps to solve the problem.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Sir, I am drawing your attention towards a serious problem. Telephone service in Rajasthan is the worst at present and thousands of telephones have been lying out of order in my constituency, Jaipur for the last several weeks. No action is taken even after lodging the complaint. Even the telephone meant for lodging the telephone complaints is lying out of order. Now where should the complainant lodge his report. The telephone of General Manager is also lying out of order. The telephones of emergency services, Police control room, telephone nos. 101 and 102, District Supply Officer and Collector—all are lying out of order. The telephones have been out of order for months together but the bills are issued for that period also. On the other hand, it was announced that the bill would be issued only for the period of normal functioning of the telephone. (*Interruptions*). Telephone Directory has not been published. As a result people to make enquiries from Telephone No. 197 which is chargeable. Thus, the service of Telephone No. 197 should be made free till the Telephone Directory is published. Telephone bill should also be issued only for the period telephone remains in working order. One of my submissions is that eletronic system should be introduced for the telephone Nos. with six or seven digits so that telephone system in Rajasthan in general and Jaipur in particular could be immediately improved. If no improvement is brought about I, along with telephone subscribers, of Jaipur would stage Dharna or observe hunger strike in front of the office of District Telephones Officer or the office of the hon. Minister. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI (Gazipur) : There is a great need of constructing a new rail line from Ghat Railway Station to Mau Junction in Gazipur district of eastern Uttar Pradesh. It would not impose much burden on the Government. Because the distance between Ghat Station and Mau Junction is merely 40 Kms. The area where new rail line is to be constructed falls under the jurisdiction of Gazipur Tehsil and '*Chakbandi*' is expected to be done soon in this area.

If Railway Ministry ask for land for constructing this new rail line, the Chakbandi Department will certainly provide land for the purpose. Railway Ministry will not have to pay the compensation for the land.... (*Interruptions*) Similarly, there is also a great need to construct a railway bridge between Tari Ghat Station and Ghat Station on the river Ganga. In the absence of railway bridge over the Ganga river, not only Gazipur is divided into two parts, but also the passengers have to travel on foot from Tari Ghat or they have to travel *via* Varanasi to reach Gazipur Headquarters. If a railway bridge is constructed over the Ganga river, the trains will reach direct upto Ghazipur Headquarters. Besides, Ghazipur will also be linked directly with other parts of the country.

SHRI RABI RAY (Kendrapada) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, today, the Home Minister is present here. I would like to draw your attention towards a question concerning human life. We have already discussed the practice of 'Sati' in this House. It is a good thing that yesterday Uma Bharati raised the issue of female foeticide. I would like to draw your attention towards a very painful practice.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a village Sathewadi in Maharashtra where a couple was not blessed with a female child. They got a male child after offering prayers to the village god Masoba. They had vowed to sacrifice their first child, at the alter of village god Masoba. But the male child was not sacrificed as it was considered that he would protect the lineage. After two years, a female child was born in the family and that female child was killed. Parents complained that other people had killed